

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting  
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island  
Special Meeting held March 5, 2020, 12:00 PM  
Beaver Island Community School**

**Present**

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Neal Green, Gary Conant, Wil Cwikiel, Dick Mulvihill, Paul Cole, Patrick McGinnity, Mark Engelsman, Cynthia Johnson, Judy Gallagher, Don Spencer, Paul Niehaus, Tammy Radionoff

**Others**

Alan Vicstein (via phone)

**Absent**

Bill Kohls (Peaine Township), Kevin Shepard (Charlevoix County)

12:05 pm, meeting begins.

**Introduction of Representatives:**

Kevin Boyle: BITAC Chairperson

Kathleen McNamara: St. James Township, BITAC Vice-Chair

Theresa McDonough: BITAC, Secretary

Neal Green, BITAC

Gary Conant, BITAC

Judy Gallagher – PABI (Beaver Island Community Center)

Cynthia Johnson – Northern Islander Newspaper

Mark Engelsman – Beaver Island Historical Society

Patrick McGinnity – Beaver Island District Library

Paul Cole – Chamber of Commerce, St. James Township

Don Spencer – Beaver Island Rural Health Center

Dick Mulvihill – Beaver Island Association

Wil Cwikiel – Beaver Island Community School

Alan Vicstein – Beaver Island Historical Society

A welcome to all as Boyle reviews the Beaver Island Broadband Consortium agreement along with a brief presentation of the “pools of service” and what to expect by joining the consortium.

The agreement was adopted after reviewing a similar document used by the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA).

A brief review by Boyle explaining that the intent of the Pools of Service is to improve service and not replace TDS. It will show the community that we are not dependent on TDS. In fact, the Pools of Service could pull some demand away from TDS and free up bandwidth for current TDS customers. We hope to eventually create some community “co-working spaces” once the system is installed. The goal is to be up and running, used and tested by June 2020.

Beaver Island Broadband Consortium contract is reviewed and discussed.

Each representative will meet with their respective boards for approval. A Joint Governing Board needs to be established at the next meeting. At this meeting, someone should be elected to be the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary and develop bylaws as well as discuss pricing.

**Next Meeting Date** The next meeting will be held at the Community Center on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.